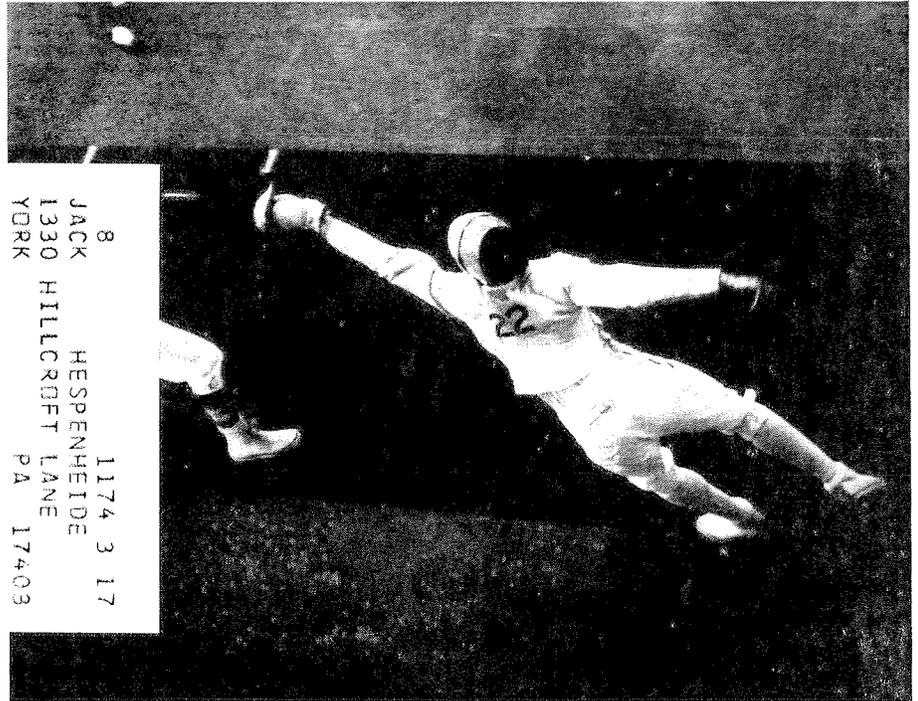
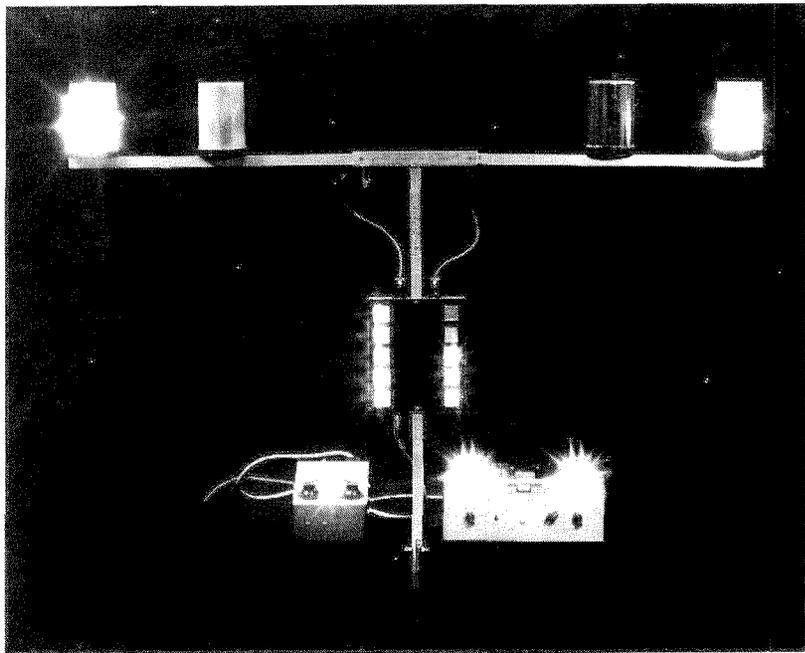


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May/JUNE 1977





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**American
FENCING**

**Volume 28
Number 5**

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ABOUT THE COVER

Michael D'Asaro (right) is one native-born Americans ever to U.S. Olympic fencing coach. In short time, he has produced numerous intercollegiate champions in both individual and team foil and has inspired a high level of loyalty among his students.

In his competitive days, Mike was a collegiate, national, Pan American world military champion in sabre and a formidable competitor in both foil and epee. Recently named by the International Women's Fencing Association as the Fencer of the Year, Mike is the subject of a feature article beginning on page 8.

IT'S STILL THE SAME OLD STORY

An Editorial by Harriet King

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from a man in New York, querying me about some material he had submitted to the magazine. He wanted to know why it hadn't run. Since I had received the material at the end of February and had gotten it into the March/April issue (because time was of the essence for him) and since I had expended considerable time of my own to do so, I was somewhat surprised to say the least.

As we talked, he began to understand the situation. After recognizing the logistics problem, he said to me, "You know, before I talked to you, I had discussed this with some people around here and they felt you hadn't run the material because it was from the East Coast. Now that the magazine is being published out of San Francisco, you all were trying to pay us back for all the years the West had been ignored."

There was somewhat of a pause while I recovered from that one. Considering the courage that Irwin Bernstein and those who supported him had shown in moving both the secretaryship of the AFLA and the editorship of the magazine to another coast, I would have thought that the old, old argument of east vs. west vs. north vs. south would at last have been laid to rest. It's an argument that has been going on ever since most of us have been fencing and the sport has expanded from an enclave in the east to truly national proportions. Certainly at one time easterners had no concept of the problems or the desires of the rest of the country. Whatever was happening in the league filtered out of the east was by word of mouth or rumor.

Over the years, this has become less and less true. I've seen it happen myself. As a New Yorker, by birth, upbringing and education — and as a Californian, at this point, by choice, I've been able to experience the fencing spectrum geographically, competitively and administratively. And I've seen the change.

As editor of *American Fencing*, one of my own goals has been to make this into a magazine that represented all aspects and geographical boundaries of our sport, a goal I know was also shared by Ralph Goldstein. In the past issues for which I've been responsible, there has been a spread of con-

(Continued on page 14)

From the President by Irwin Bernstein



FENCING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In the Jan./Feb. issue of *AMERICAN FENCING* we announced the initiation of a fencing development program. At that time we reported on the appointment of Jack Keane as National Captain to head the program and outlined some of the preliminary plans for its operation.

In April, 1977, the AFLA International Committee approved an organization structure and initial staffing as well as certain specific projects. On behalf of the Committee and the AFLA, I am proud to report on these plans.

Objective

Our overall objective is to improve fencing in the United States by the establishment of a national training system. Among the specific aims are:

1. to provide for the continuous and effective training of our international competitors in all fencing centers in the United States.
2. to identify potential international competitors, including those not now on the squad, as early as possible in order to assist them in accelerating their progress.
3. to assemble a body of knowledge on the most effective teaching techniques and make it available to current and prospective instructors.
4. to accelerate the development of young coaches.
5. to utilize the most modern sports medicine and physical training technology to aid in the development and protection of fencers.
6. to improve officiating so that it complements the competitive abilities of our best fencers.
7. to develop competent armorers to support our international competitors.

Organization

1. The heart of the program is the national coaching staff. These coaches will be asked to pool their knowledge and experience

to create a definitive system of technical, physical and psychological preparation of current and potential internationalists. They will also be charged with the responsibility of communicating this system to their fellow coaches to enable us to achieve continuity and consistency in teaching the fundamentals of the sport and to provide a firm foundation for the eventual achievement of an American style. The entire national coaching staff will transmit its system to fencers and other coaches by the holding of seminars, publication of manuals and participation in projects around the country.

The National Coaching Staff

Initial appointees are:

Chief-of-Staff: Csaba Elthes

Technical Director: Jean Jacques Gillet
National Coaches:

Yves Auriol, Delmar Calvert, Michael D'Asaro, Ion Drimba, Henry Haratunian, David Micahnik (Mr. Micahnik will also serve as Administrative Director), Heizaburo Okawa

Associate Coaches:

Mark Berger, Les Bleamaster, Istvan Danosi, Michael DeCicco, Eugene Hamori, Rob Handelman, Odon Niederkirchner, Joseph Pechinsky, Jacques Piguet, Ed Richards.

Assistant Coaches:

Steve Kaplan, George Kolombotovich, James Murray, Denise O'Connor.

Senior Advisors:

Lajos Csiszar, Edward Lucia, Georgio Santelli.

2. In order to maintain closer contact with our current international fencers, so as to monitor their training, coordinate their international competition, and advise them in their development efforts, Mr. Keane will be assisted by Weapon Captains. Initial appointees are:
Epee: To be named
Foil: Dr. Daniel Bukantz
Sabre: Robert Blum
Women: Denise O'Connor
3. A Sports Medical and Physical Training Staff will be headed by Dr. Marius Valamis, with James White as Associate Director. The staff will include Les Bleamaster and Michel Sebastiani.
4. An Armorer's Training Staff will be

headed by Manny Forrest. It will also include Joe Byrnes, Dan DeChaine and Reith.

5. Officials' Training will be headed by Ralph Zimmerman.
6. Training Centers will be established at various fencing locales under the direction of the National Coaching Staff. The distribution of internationalists and the availability of facilities will be important considerations in site selection. In addition, we will coordinate our plans with the existing center program of the U.S. Fencing Committee with regard to the use of schools and other public facilities as the dedicated facilities of the center itself.

Initial plans call for 4 centers: Southern California, Northern California, Midwest, and N.Y./N.J. Michael Keane will head the Midwest center. Center Directors will be designated at a later time.

Projects

1. There are two specific projects being instituted immediately:
 - A. A National Coaches Conference will be held sometime prior to the 1978 Nationals. Its objective is to develop an initial training syllabus and codify the teaching methods.
 - B. A series of regional week-end events to be held monthly around Oct. 1977. (As soon as they are announced it will be essential that divisions avoid scheduling conflicts on those weekend dates.) These events will probably include technical and physical testing on Saturday and competition on Sunday.
- In addition to the National Coaching Staff members residing in the various regional areas, others eligible to be included will include top NCAA and other prospects identified by the National Coach near the center will be augmented by other National Coaches from other regions in order to interchange necessary for the system. We expect to supplement our own U.S.O.C. development program to launch this project on

Continued From Page 5

2. Future projects will be developed once funding guidelines are established and the basic organization is in place. The scope of these projects is potentially quite broad and should provide us with long-range progress far beyond that attainable through the traditional means.

The AFLA International committee is indebted to Jack Keane for the planning of the new program and for undertaking its management. We are also gratified by the enthusiastic responses of the coaches and others appointed to staff the program. It is the unselfish efforts of these program leaders and the conscientious application of its concepts by the fencers, officials, and armorers who participate, plus the support of all AFLA members, that will determine the future progress of American fencing over years to come.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP by Connie Latzko

"The safety, care and repair of fencing equipment" was the subject of a workshop attended by coaches and equipment managers from New York and New Jersey colleges and schools. Joe Byrnes demonstrated useful ways of detecting breakdowns, explained the circuitry to beginners, and Phillip Castello demonstrated the best way to repair and maintain equipment and uniforms. Another workshop is planned for October, 1977. The sessions are held at Castello Fencing Equipment Co., 836 Broadway, New York City, 10003. Write for further information.



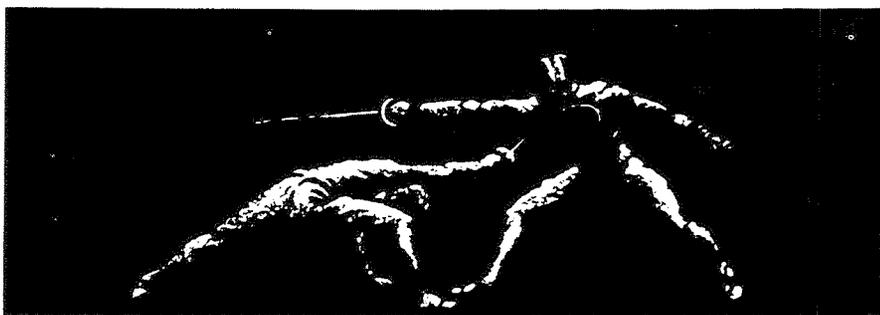
WHAT IF ?

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and we will publish as many letters as we can. This is your chance to be heard.

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JUNIOR OLYMPIC NEWS

by Mary Huddleson

host division or section can take of diminished travel problems.

North Texas had 37 entries each in the U-20 men's foil and epee, 14 entries in the U-20 section. The top young men showed up to compete in several weapons.

From Illinois, all three qualifier men's U-20 event came to California Championships, plus the two U-16 qualifiers and two U-16 epee Bravo for the coaches and the parents sent them!

Oregon had 16 entries in its U-20 men's foil and 22 entries in its U-20 women's foil. Almost the full contingent of participants participated in the Championships. The U-20 division had a total of 52 entries in its men's qualifying events. Some "juniors" are giving the seniors a run for their money on the national level.

Southern California had a total of 100 entries in its four U-20 qualifying rounds in all of its U-16 events. Both coaches and parents are involved in the success story.

St. Louis had 30 total entries in its U-20 events and 42 entries in its U-16 events. None of the qualifiers entered the J.O. Championships.

There seem to be two main factors which weigh a high attendance at a national meet: the travel distance to the meet and the strength of the Junior Olympic program at the local divisional levels. A division with an active junior program generally has a dedicated fencing instructor and interested parents, mamas and papas, who are willing to chauffeur their kids to the meet, lessons and to spend some time to get their kids to competitor program also takes some interest in the fencers to run the meets. There are some rewards and fun for everyone involved.

We would like to hear more from you fencers and shakers in the above divisions. I am sure, only tell us their stories. We would also like to hear from the small triumphs and problem divisions in their endeavors to keep the Junior Olympic program alive and

The other day our ever-alert national secretary, Eleanor Turney, handed me a batch of divisional reports on Junior Olympic qualifiers which she had "lifted" from this year's host division, Northern California. From these partial reports the following general comments are made.

Although our official records show that, as of last September, we had over 1800 Student members in the AFLA, over half of our 64 divisions sent us no information on whether or not they have held any Junior fencing events. However, from those divisions which did communicate, it is possible to figure the number of contestants who participated nationally in our Junior qualifying events. This can be used as some measure or indication of how we are doing with our Junior programs. The picture is very spotty; and so, I assume, is our Junior Olympic program.

Last February, slightly over 200 young men and women entered our U.S. National Junior Olympic Championships in San Mateo, California. Every one of the 7 Sections was represented (some more sparsely than others), plus the Metropolitan Division.

The Metropolitan Division (N.Y. City) qualified 18 entries (some contestants enter more than one event) overall, and 11 entries were actually filled in the Championships. Considering the distance these youngsters had to travel, this is a strong showing.

The Mid Atlantic Section totaled over 300 entries in its various qualifying rounds (over half of this total was from the N.J. Division) and registered some 53 entries in the Championships themselves. This is another strong showing. Some idea of the widely and wildly fluctuating numbers involved can be illustrated by the fact that N.J. had 58 entries in its qualifying U-20 women's foil. The median entry number for divisions in the same section for the same event was 6; the lowest number was one. Something is obviously going on in New Jersey, and has been for some time.

The host section (Pacific Coast) had 264 individual entries in the qualifying rounds of seven divisions. From this came 101 entries in the Championships. This shows how young fencers who reside in the area of the



AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE D'ASARO

by Roger Van Waters

Q: As one of the U.S.A.'s few home-grown fencers to make good internationally, in the game, it would be helpful if you could tell us about your start in fencing.

A: I learned how to fence at Alexander Hamilton Vocational High School in New York. I started fencing because I had ninth period gym, the last period of the day, and I absolutely hated gym. But the way out was to go for a spot on one of the teams, and then you had sports practice instead of gym class. I had always been active in athletics: stickball, punchball, lots and lots of handball, touch football, and of course, baseball and basketball. I and twelve guys in my gang started fencing together and I made the team.

Q: How did you find out about the existence of fencing?

A: I think it was word of mouth; someone had a friend in the sport.

Q: What made you stay in?

A: I was in already when Cliff Kirmss, a man I respect highly to this day, came down and helped out. He was a very positive influence, and his attitude kept me in. He was always telling me "Kid, you can do it, some day you'll be champ," and I fed on that.

Q: Were there any other reinforcements?

A: Well, I was winning a lot, and the more I won, the hungrier I got. People kept shaking my hand. It meant something.

Q: You learned your basic technique in your sophomore year...?

A: Yes, but I already knew what it was to fight, to win and not to lose, to hit and not get hit, to suffer and to be on top, through my previous life experiences. I knew if I

could hit five times before being hit, I'd win. Simple.

I knew the rules and I worked within the framework. Officiating is a problem, but there's a margin of error that you can anticipate and adjust to. In the real world you can't anticipate, you never know, and dependencies are complex.

Q: Did you fence AFLA in high school?

A: I didn't know AFLA existed in high school, since we fenced only other high schools. But we won the high school championships my first year and the same year I was third, individually.

Q: What was your attitude like?

A: I was mean. I smoked and wore my collar up.

Q: Leather jacket too?

A: I couldn't even afford naughahyde. I wanted to win, badly. "I want it, I need it," was my attitude.

Q: Where did you go from there?

A: As I said, Kirmss would work with us a lot, on his own time. He would come down and take us to the Youth Center after it closed at ten o'clock, in his own car. His own car! Tremendous encouragement all the time. Eventually he took us to college meets. I said, "Wow, look at those guys!" They were good. But I couldn't imagine myself in college. No way.

Q: So how did you get to N.Y.U.?

A: In my senior year in high school, I won the championships and received scholarship offers to Columbia, Annapolis, and N.Y.U. That's the only reason I went to college.

Q: What kept you going?

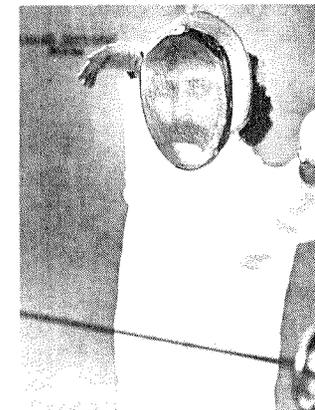
A: When I fenced I felt great. When I won I felt even better.

Q: But practices hurt...

A: They're supposed to hurt. / athletics is familiar with that, if sport seriously. But fencers a lists on top of that.

Q: How so?

A: Any good fencer in this co does even just okay internatic there in spite of the system, n of it. Fencers now must take matter where in the U.S. the cause it's so hard to seek it (our job to share it with the There are some very fundame wrong with the way the progr on today. The problems ar



complex and circular. And t even the fencer who makes i the system frequently turns a does it to the system.

Q: Please explain.

A: Basically, it's a promotion and that feeds on itself. The enough places to fence and i coaches to teach at those n places. But if the demand, a with dollars backing it up, v there would be plenty of bot takes professional promotion is necessary to feed stude siasm, even if it's just a box s San Jose Mercury-News. It is to find places to play tenni basketball, or any other maj

Q: The demand is great enough in golf to cause huge landscaped areas to be put up all over the country, and golf is a strange game. . .

A: Exactly. At San Jose State we give exhibitions for high schools and people see that fencing is really groovy. We have the best women fencers in the country and the kids get turned on to pretty fencing. And then they ask where they can fence. But after we turn them on there's nothing, because there aren't enough clubs and teachers.

Q: What motivates people to start fencing and stay in?

A: Because of the problems of facilities and teaching there have to be some powerful fantasies motivating the competitor these days.

Q: What are they?

A: There are three things. Mainly, it's the romantic nature of the sport, the feeling that comes out of swashbuckling movies. Lately there haven't been too many; but before, people could relate to Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks, both senior and junior, Basil Rathbone, and Cornell Wilde, who incidentally was a finalist in the national intercollegiate foil championships.

Q: Like the popularity of karate and kung-fu after Bruce Lee movies. . .?

A: Exactly; I was just reading how kung-fu, judo and karate clubs have had a phenomenal growth rate all over the Bay Area. They're fun as businesses and they're successful.

Q: What are the other main draws to fencing?

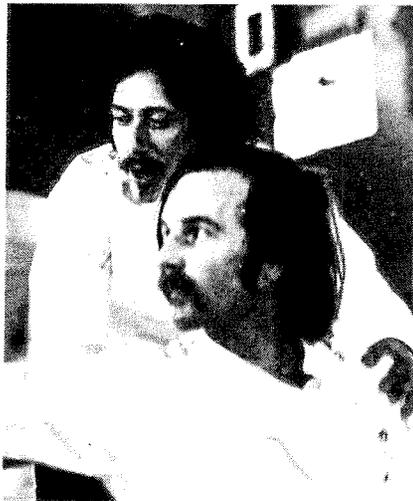
A: Word of mouth from friends in the sport is another. There is no active promotion. No one told me about AFLA until I got to college, and I wouldn't have made it *there* if I hadn't already been good. Once I found out about AFLA, I fenced every weekend in every weapon.

Q: Why?

A: The principles are the same in any of them. George Santelli used to say that a fencer should be able to fence with a broomstick. I believe that. The principle is hit and don't get hit. That's why I fenced all three, even though sabre was my favorite. It doesn't matter if you're using just your bare hands, broken bottles, chairs or foils. It's all the same.

Q: What is the third attraction to fencing? You've mentioned two.

A: I believe the sport is innate in every individual, as a survival instinct. Ask any person, or at least males, if they used to fight with sticks. Everybody did. Fencing is not a unique phenomenon. We have a heritage of fencing and fighting — everyone had to learn to run, swim and fence. It was survival. Fencing was combat, like fangs or claws. Survival is much more subtle these days, and tongues are in fact sharper than swords. But



the roots of survival, after bare hands, involve hand-held weapons. Look at the first things made in the Bronze Age — swords. The same thing with the Iron and Steel Ages.

Fencing as a sport has very elitist derivations, however, and that's too bad, because the roots are so basic.

Q: How did this happen?

A: Swords were always very expensive, so those who used them were generally of the nobility. The techniques were taught to noblemen, aristocrats and military people, those who could afford to pay someone to teach them, usually a warrior bum who was very good at sword-fighting. They needed the skills to defend themselves because frequently the aristocrats and nobility were either crippled, assaulted by scoundrels and highwaymen, or went into the military for lack of something better to do.

Q: How does this relate to the game?

A: As we developed, and became more civilized, duels between individuals became more structured in terms of rules, with stricter procedures constantly being imposed. A little-bitty lunge was customary and it was considered cowardly to retreat, so they tended to do some strange things. They got away from reality.

Q: I assume you're blaming the elitism of fencing for the lack of a broad base in this country. I don't get the feeling that Europeans treat fencing as if only "the special" can take up the game. What's the state of the world game today?

A: The primary changes in modern fencing came as a result of a five-year plan for athletics that the Russians made back in the 1950's. They took fencing out of the mystique of aristocracy, and made it for the people; you know what they've done since then. They've kick everyone by just hard work, and they've changed the physical activity of the game in a very positive sense.

Q: More appealing to the regular sort of person?

A: I still maintain that a fencer is an artist, a scientist, not a regular sort of person, with high demands on him, a great amount of devotion, dedication, love, sacrifice and with appeal only to the most romantic person.

Q: What is the state of fencing these days, in terms of popularity?



A: I'd like to think that fencing is more popular, but it isn't. U and colleges are losing prog the quality overall is going c strongest foothold used to be leges and universities, and r budgets get tight fencing pro: the first to go. We are losing

Q: Fencing has been around th much longer than judo, kara ball, even basketball. . .

A: But it hasn't progressed, e agree that it's going backwa early 1900's the *New York Tim* have an article on fencing ev Now you can't even find a bc Fencing right now is very fr and it's a struggle to survive ; even just to maintain the level

Q: Do you really believe that?

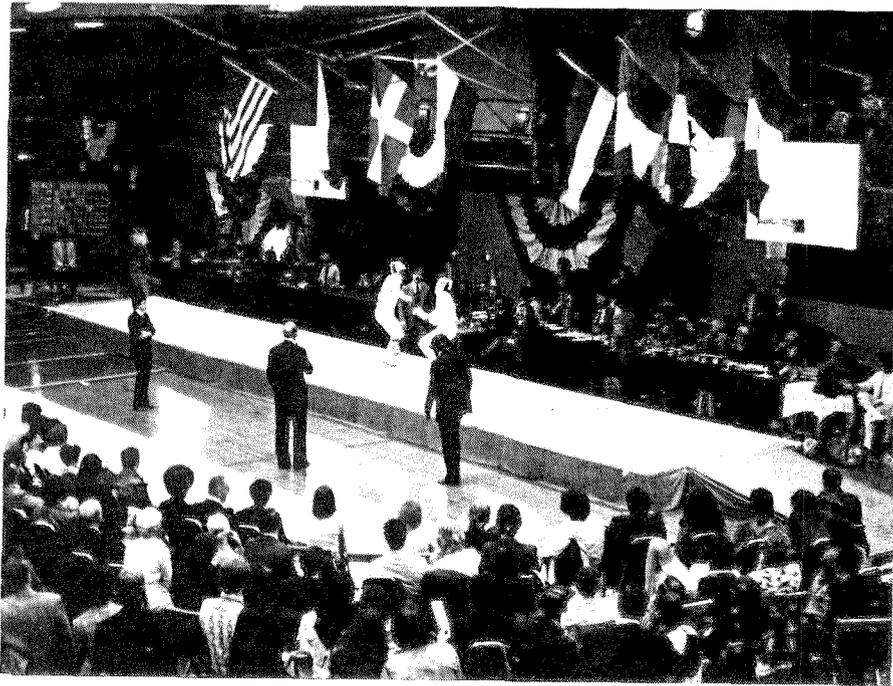
A: Sure, look at our team and scores at the last Olympics.

Q: Do you believe this is a trend?

A: Don't forget that any day now, many will field an Olympic fen They're good, and they've bee ing actively and successfully. But they didn't compete at N they didn't think they were got or prepared enough. When tl you know they'll be strong.

Q: Have you seen other change the years?

A: Sure; I've seen the Romanian garians come up. You'll see worse because we can't competition. We need better s niques and athletes. I coac Junior World Championship saw these kids and most d have the basics; most couldn their arms out before they lur primitive, and they had abs point control. Nil.



HOW TO RUN A COMPETITION

by Emily B. Johnson

PART III: The Buck Stops Here

Fencing starts tomorrow. You, the head of the Bout Committee, relax for a moment and listen to the sounds of setting-up, glad cries of greeting between old friends and enemies and the voice of the armorer telling a competitor that his equipment doesn't pass.

Your job will be to run the competition. You are responsible for seeding the strips, getting directors, getting an event started and keeping it moving, settling problems and protests and handling a multitude of minor problems.

Hopefully, you will have a lot of the burden taken from your shoulders by others — but it is still your responsibility. Remember, fencers are people who have given up much to be there. This is their competition, not yours.

You pick up the stack of 3 x 5 cards representing entries for the first event. On each card is the fencer's name, club, division,

national ranking and place in the qualifying competition. Check to be sure all last minute scratches have been noted. This can affect not only the seeding but the competition plan.

Seed the fencers according to strength — the strongest first. After you have run through the Olympic Squad list (which you follow exactly), you have to start using more and more judgment. Results in the Nationals — national rankings — place in the qualifying competition — all must be considered. Rely on your own opinions as little as possible. Don't hesitate to ask for help from others who may know more than you do about the strength of another division. Seeding should be based as much as possible on proven performance in competition. Don't agonize too long over the cards of fencers at the bottom of the stack.

Determine your competition plan based

on the number of entries. First take two aspirin . . . if there are 48 entries, it's a snap. 48-24-12-6. Suppose there are 49 or 50 or 51? Although it is legal in the United States to promote three fencers from a strip of seven if it is announced in advance, you end up with unhappy fencers when you do it. It is strictly last resort.

There must be six finalists in National Championship tournaments. There is no reason why there can't be more in other competitions. (Ed. note: Oh yes, there is, if you're preparing to fence in the Nationals!).

Remember, you can increase or decrease the number of pools, you can qualify different numbers of fencers in different rounds or you can give byes which usually compound your problems. I prefer to qualify as many as possible out of the first round but this is sometimes not feasible. Be realistic about the time required under each proposed plan and the number of strips that will be available.

You have determined your competition plan, so start the seeding. You snake the cards down — I assume I don't have to spell this out. Now check each pool. Switch cards as necessary, preferably from the lower part of the pool to prevent teammates and possibly division mates from fencing in the same pool and to take care of obvious errors. Don't change the card of anyone seeded from the Olympic Squad list except to prevent teammates from being on the same strip.

In limited competitions, such as the Olympic Trials, fill in the score sheet as seeded. In competitions where there are many pools, I recommend alphabetizing the first round *only*.

An extra copy of the pool sheet can be posted on the bulletin board to cut down on paper work. Pool numbers and strip numbers should be the same. If you have Pool 1 on Strip 8 you will end up with 2 fencers on Strip 8, 2 fencers at Strip 1 and the rest at the bout committee table.

In a big competition, post the pools the evening before. Delay posting the pools in a smaller competition as long as possible because no-shows and oversights may change the seeding and the competition plan.

Post the competition plan at the same time. It is possible that someone may read it.

In succeeding rounds seed exactly in accordance with the indicators. Switch — from the bottom — for teammates and, if possible,

to prevent duplications of the previous strip. You can also do a very limited switching to give the strips better results on the strip. HOWEVER, do not substitute your notifications are irrelevant. Never switch with different bout indicators. Limit of cards to the same horizontal the indicators are close. The closer to the finals, the less "judgment" use.

The rules book sets forth the way teams. (Rule 5 76-578)

As soon as the pool sheets start the indicators should be checked and the cards of those noted interfiled in order. When only two or three sheets to cover someone down to check the pool want to fence the last bout on a strip. The pool may be finished one is chatting. The remaining bouts make any difference in the seeding words, if you can prevent it, don't two slow pools hold up the competition. If you can't prevent it, shut

A competition should start or should keep moving. Unnecessarily create unhappiness. Keep the strips casually. If everyone is around talking instead of fencing casually over to find out what the result is. This is not the time for general discussion. Keep it moving.

The competition should never be for the convenience of a fencer. An exception is if the fencer was hurt because of duties in connector competition. Use the 2 minutes.

Let the fencers know the starting time of the next round and before that time. Always give the fencers notice except when you are directly into the finals and there are problems.

Follow the rules book. Every fencer should have one and should know it. Don't hesitate to look in the rules and read the pertinent sections there is a protest or question.

Getting good directors is a real ache. Most good directors are fencers and are still competing have to find one for Strip 4. This round, the more important it is good director. The loudest grudge those who will not stick around to

they've been eliminated. You cannot ask anyone to direct all day without a break. What do you do?

When you get a complaint about a director you ask yourself who is the director and who is making the complaint. Is the complaint about an isolated bad call or consistent ineptness? Is anyone available to relieve the director? Is a fencer on that strip (not a coach or a father) willing to go on record? A lot of protests are from fencers who have never directed and don't know the rules.

If there is a possibility that there is substance to the complaint, I ask someone knowledgeable to go over to the strip casually and observe. If the report I get back supports the protest, I try to relieve the director as tactfully as possible. It may make him mad at me but my job is to give the fencers the best director available under the circumstances. I also try to relieve directors who have been at it for a long period, if they want a break.

I could go on for pages . . . You may have to deal with the press or television, you may have to assign someone to keep track of watches and weights, you need someone to type up the results for *American Fencing*, you have questions and protests and chit-chat . . .

Remember, fencing is for fencers, all of them, and that if you do your best and keep them informed, they are a wonderful group. You can have a lot of fun. You can always sleep at some other time.

(Continued from page 4)

tributors across the country, on a variety of subjects. Articles have been submitted with which I disagree philosophically. And they've run. Ideally, there would be an even greater spectrum. But, do you know that since the article on Salle Richards of Boston, at the end of which I requested articles on other clubs, the only one I've received is on the Halberstadt Fencers Club. Come on, you people who applauded the opening up of the magazine, where are your contributions?

In spite of what I've said and am seeing happen in the league, I realize that there are still some people who think only in terms of their own interests. They don't like to see the power spread around. I hope they find the guts, as Irwin and his colleagues have, to finally think beyond their own interests and their own divisions.

NEW CLUB IN NEW YORK

The Sala dell'Orso, Fencing Club recently opened in downtown New York City. The primary orientation is toward competing fencers. Master of fencing is Boris Nani-kashvili, for twenty-five years an eminent coach in the Soviet Union. For more information please call (212) 767-7809 (eves).



EN GARDE

On the next page, you'll see the same questionnaire that appeared in the November/December issue. Why are we running it again? Because the response to the first one was merely an average. 5% of our members took the time to fill it out and send it in.

In view of the enthusiasm most fencers have for the sport and also in view of the support voiced for the aims stated in the November/December editorial, we were all hoping for double that response.

So en garde! Take your pen in hand and meet the challenge. Attack the questionnaire like a respected opponent and dispatch it with haste. If you've already filled out a questionnaire, take yours down to the club and get a sallemate to fill it out and mail it. Our ability to increase our revenue — and the league's services to you — hinge on it. So, pret, allez!

THE HEIDENHEIM EPEE

by George G. Masin

The epee tournament in Heidenheim, West Germany, this year had twenty-one teams and over three-hundred-fifty entries in the individual. The semi-finals of the team event produced a minor upset when the West Germans eliminated the Russians (a reversal of last year's result) and a major upset when the Romanians eliminated the Hungarians. This meant that the team event would be won by a team other than the Russians or Hungarians for the first time since 1963. In the intervening thirteen years, the Russians had won seven times and the Hungarians six. The final was anticlimactic since the Romanians seemed drained by their hard battle with the Hungarians and were overrun by the strong West German team.

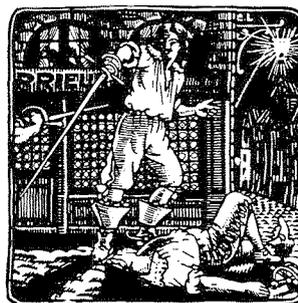
There were six Americans fencing in the individual event. The best result came from Lee Shelley of Princeton who was eliminated in the direct elimination round of forty-eight

(the fourth round). The final was won by the defending champion Jacobson of Sweden, undefeated victories. A three-way tie for second (each fencer having three victories) was solved by touches with Opgenort of Germany taking second, Lukoms of Soviet Union third, and Riboud of France fourth. Rasolkov of the Soviet Union with one victory and Swornowski of Poland sixth.

Jacobson is only the second fencer to win the Heidenheim Epee two years in a row, the only other fencer to do it being Nikantchikov of the Soviet Union who did it in 1969-70. The only other American to win Heidenheim twice was Niels Land who won in 1965 and 1967. You who remember Niels Land's fencing in the Martini-Rossi competition in New York in the late 1960's will be pleased to hear that his nineteen-year-old son won this year's Heidenheim Epee and was eliminated in the direct elimination round of forty-eight.

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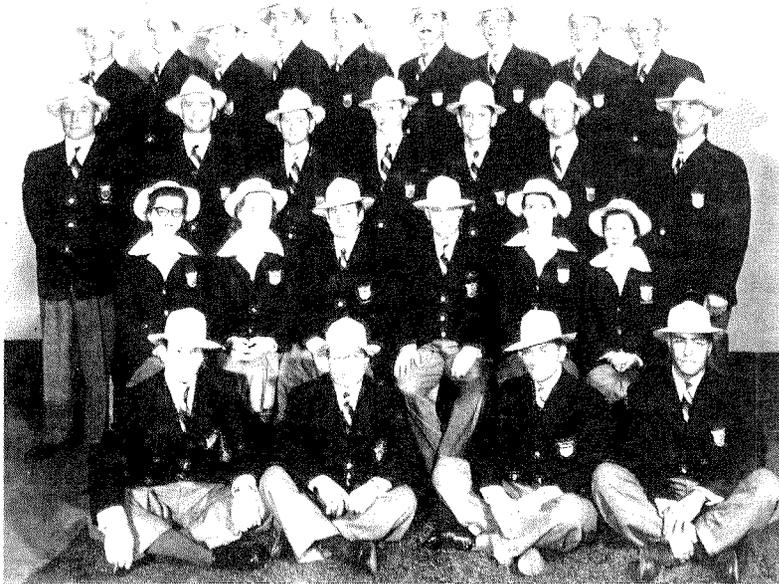
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THE HELENE MAYER MEMORIAL

by Mary F



How many of these fencers can you identify? For the answer see page 31.

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A lively group of 34 women gathered at Mills College in Oakland, California, on March 26 to vie for one of the oldest and most prestigious trophies, the Helen Mayer Memorial Cup. This was the 24th annual tournament held in honor of the famous German fencer who transferred her allegiance to the U.S. and the San Francisco Bay area after winning medals in several European and World Championships and in the 1928 Olympics.



Scattered among the fencers (who are always encouraged to enter this tournament and to join the fun of a big party after the meet) were 9 Olympic Squad members. Kathy Aanestad came up from the repechage rounds to form a finals of 7 with the others who survived the regular rounds. A three-way fence-off for first place among Stacey Johnson, Sue Badders, and Vincent Hurley resulted in 1 defeat and 1 victory for

each and was resolved by indic three, plus Gay D'Asaro and V master, showed evidence of l and good conditioning and fen throughout the meet.

Semis: 1) Gay D'Asaro (D' 2) Sue Badders (Salle de Es; 3) Maxine Mitchell (West End) (: Konecny (Dasaro) (2-3); 5) Tc (Marki) (1-4); 6) Iza Farkas (D' Il. 1) Vincent Hurley (D' 2) Stacey Johnson (D'As 3) Virginia Bleamaster (Salle (3-2); 4) Debbie Waples (Salle 5) Jean Michaelis (Marki) (1-4 Robertson (Salle de Esgrima) -

Finals: 1) Stacey Johnson (: Badders (5-1); 3) Vincent Hurley Dasaro (3-3); 5) Virginia Blear 6) Kathy Aanestad (Halbers 7) Maxine Mitchell (1-5).
Fence-off: Johnson def. Hurley def. Badders (4-5); Badder son (4-5). Final standings deci dators.

THE TOURNAMI

fencers erect in whit contemplating the fig director calls "allez." adroit one-two coupé parried. riposte! conterriposte!
Blades skillfully flashir deftly maneuvering searching for the targ like a guided missile Here comes the hit a blur a whistle! Light sparks box ye! Dexterous doublé. "Touché." "La Belle. Surprise flèche! "Halt." "Bout."

TECHNICAL TALKS

by Joe Byrnes



The ways of the FIE are sometimes wondrous strange and mysterious. (I know fencers who would react to that remark by saying "sometimes?" with that peculiar inflection that conveys the maximum of scorn with the minimum of effort. Ah, well.) Anyway, let us consider one of the more recent moves to purify our sport.

Various committee reports and the minutes of annual congresses for a couple of years show a steady development or reinforcement of what I gather is now being called "the rule of white." A couple of congresses ago, a question was posed to the international sachems of fencing, in solemn conclave assembled: What about the color of the mesh of the fencing mask; should it be white; after all the rules said the uniform must be white? Despite a heroic objection or two that the mask was not properly a part of the "uniform," it was eventually settled that the mesh of the mask could be any color the fencer happened to have; but, as if to make up for such a monstrous concession, the previous permission granted in Article 27 of the Rule Book that the uniform, and bib and trim of the mask, might be "of a very light tint" was deleted (as has been reported in our Rules Book Supplement recently issued).

I wonder if the saber fencers present recognized that this meant that all leather padding on saber masks now had to be white? Anyway, that is just what it meant, as I gather a lot of saber fencers found out at Montreal last year. Incidentally, the same optional color concession granted for the mesh of masks was also given to gloves. So, for the present, a foil fencer could show up with a mask on which the plastic insulation on the mesh of the mask was chartreuse, lavender, fuchsia, or whatever. Ditto for the color of the glove. Anybody for color coordinated masks and gloves?

Now, run your mind's eye over the uniform of a typical fencer. On second thought, better not: make that the uniform of the ideal fencer. The mask will be trimmed in white, whatever the mesh will look like; the bib will be white; the jacket and trousers will be

white; the glove may be a shocking exception, but the stockings will be white, and the shoes. . . Ah, the shoes. There, it seems to me, is the next likely front for the FIE inspectors to become persnickety. Even those shoes which have been made specially for fencing have sometimes had other colors than white on them. I am not speaking here of tan or cream or pale yellow soles, either, since I imagine that the soles might escape censure — after all, eventually they will become black or, at least, dirty gray. But those shoes that have striped reinforcements in color — ah, ha; down with 'em: a flat violation of the rule.

I would seriously say to any fencer heading abroad for a major competition: if your shoes aren't all white, either get some that are white, or try to do something with those you've got. In a case of necessity, I can see someone trying to cover a horrid set of blue stripes with white adhesive tape — I suppose it might stay on for a while, and even be permitted, though white shoe dye or paint would be surer. (Clearly, that's the way to treat those old saber masks covered in tan or brown leather, too; but watch out for the flying paint chips on those head cuts.)

This may all seem a bit far-fetched to some, but I can easily envision a major international event, with the unwary among the competitors having their shoes rejected with scorn, if not opprobrium. What would they do? Well, I think you'd find, as is usual in like cases, that a local supplier would already be set up for business, with a friendly smile, a ready cash register, and a truck load of (white) shoes. That there is a kind of "home town" attitude in these matters is no secret to old experienced competitors, at least when the competitions are staged where there is new fencing material available.

I can see yet one more possibility for very persnickety application of "the rule of white." How do you define white? The deletion of the "very light tint" phrase from the rules could be interpreted as ruling out any white but a dazzling WHITE white. Heavy epee jackets, for example, made out of that sort of off-white

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duck, might suddenly fall under the ban, among other possibilities. There is some evidence that under this ruling CLEAN white uniforms will be more consistently demanded. Well, insofar as people do get sloppy, no doubt some action to bring them up to snuff is highly commendable, but all the manipulations that go on in the production of these rules, some of them rather political, do get to seem rather funny.

Just in passing, I note that the lished some statistics on the n pieces, and percentages, of equi were failed by their inspectors at Championships of 1975. The fig given both for the overall total, an first time I believe — for each nat pating. The honor of having the le ment failed went to Hungary, wit rate of only 1.11%. Remember World Championships of 1975 w



*"Do you think we've convinced
that women can fence sa*

WHAT A FENCING LESSON REALLY IS

by Dernel Every

Although I have been taking fencing lessons for many years, it was not until about 3 years ago that I realized exactly what a fencing lesson was. Through the years, I took my lesson from the fencing master as a matter of course. This was something that every fencer did; to loosen up, to practice the things that he already knew and to learn some new movements, if the instructor felt inclined to teach them. I looked upon the fencing master as a sort of punching bag upon which I was privileged to practice. Now I realize my mistake.

Today, we are all familiar, more or less, with the computer. This was not true fifteen or twenty years ago. The computer is a phenomenal development within our lifetime. As a machine, it can be programmed with a series of facts, relationships, instructions or reactions which can be instantly retrieved, analyzed and published. Through its use, we have come to appreciate that the human mind is the greatest computer of all; perhaps not as fast in its computations but able to use logic and think, which the computer cannot do.

Although I have long since retired from serious competition, I still fence once a week with local fencers in a club made up largely of Junior class fencers. It also has a number of outright beginners who must be taught the basic actions of the sport. I have been assisting the fencing master at this task. In doing so, I suddenly realized what a fencing lesson is. It is the process of programming the student's computer (brain) with the complex sequence of actions that fencing requires. This should have long since been obvious. It is so logical that one wonders how it was missed. We just did not have the computer to give us the clue. I had known for a long time that once a person learned to swim or tap dance or ride a bicycle, he would always be able to swim, tap dance or ride a bike, regardless of how many years had elapsed since he had last done these things. How come? It is just that once the brain has been programmed to do a certain thing, the program remains and can be retrieved on call.

It is estimated that there are several trillion cells in the human body and there are some 639 different muscles. Whenever a fencer

reacts to an opponent's action, some millions of body cells can be involved. As many as fifty muscles may be put into action and must be instructed through hundreds of thousands of nerve cells either to expand or contract to perform the required movement. This must be done fast and in time and alignment with the opponent's threat. Since you don't have time to think, you must react subconsciously.

How is this possible? Your fencing master must program your computer (brain) to do this. Starting with a beginner who knows nothing, he begins with simple beats and follows with a beat and extension. As these simple actions sink in, he teaches the beat disengage and extension from both the quarte and sixte positions. Later come the simple parries, the ripostes with and without disengages, mixed in with simple attacks; the straight lunge, the disengage lunge, the beat lunge and the beat disengage lunge. Every action must be rehearsed over and over and corrected, if it is not done properly. In theory, the fencing master is programming his pupil with mental grooves, just like those on a musical record which may be played over and over again exactly the same. These action grooves will remain with him throughout his fencing life. He programs his pupil in the actions, the positions, the body balance, the timing and speeds required in the sport. He must make his pupil rehearse the same actions over and over and insist upon their being correct. He must smooth and speed the actions, thereby obtaining the greatest efficiency in motion and timing. He must not go on to more complicated actions until the simpler preliminary actions are correctly executed. He must drill, drill, drill until the student's computer (brain) has accepted the learning "grooves." Since fencing is so complex (by which I mean that there are so many possible actions that can be undertaken, just as there are so many possible moves in chess), a fencer's need for lessons from a fencing master never actually ends. After 50 years of fencing, and lessons from at least 18 different fencing masters and instructors (and there is a difference), I still find my periodic fencing lesson a most fascinating challenge and a

pleasurable experience.

One is born with only two instincts: the fear of falling and the ability to suckle. Everything else in life has to be learned, either through trial and error or by being taught. One programs oneself or is programmed by some friend or teacher. Every "groove" of learning stays with you and you replay many of them over and over again. You tie your shoelaces, put on your jacket and brush your teeth exactly the same every time, because each of those procedures has been programmed — with the result that you do it without conscious thought. Try putting on a jacket with the other arm first or brushing your teeth holding the tooth brush in the other hand and see what a conscious problem it becomes. The same holds true of fencing. You are programmed by your fencing master and you follow those grooves. If he doesn't know his job or is not ruthlessly strict, your grooves go awry. You can be cursed with a lifetime of incorrect actions. The fencing salles are full of fencers who stand with feet too far apart, who lunge incorrectly, who feint out of line, etc. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to deprogram an action (erase the groove) once it has been thoroughly programmed into the brain. That is why any fencing master would much rather take a green student and teach him correctly in the first place than take someone else's student who has been taught incorrectly and try to make a good fencer out of him.

And now several words to the student. Don't be aggravated with your fencing master when he keeps correcting you. "Your sixte line is not straight." "You are parrying with a whack and not a beat." "You are lunging too soon. Extend the arm first and only then start the foot." "You are parrying too wide. You aren't that fat." "Sit down." All of these comments and criticisms are aimed at correcting the input into the computer. The sooner the groove in your brain is right, the better. You are learning to tie your shoelace correctly and without conscious thought. The result of all this is that thirty days from now you will make the parry, the riposte or the attack in the right way, just as you did in your lesson today. With each succeeding lesson you will have more grooves written into your computer. It is then your fencing master's job to review and test these former grooves and, if they are off in any way, correct them before they become set. Naturally, he will continue to put more grooves on your

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become capable of learning more
actions.

As a fencer, you finally enter the arena. You will then find that you are actually reacting to a lot of actions while meanwhile thinking about tactics; incidentally are not easy to correct. They are the result of conscious thought and are not part of this essay. You derive tactics from experience, primarily from an opponent's sword. Your fencing master can only partially teach you tactics; you have to acquire them from within your character and experience. However, you take a fencing lesson, your fencing master is trying to program your computer that, when you do compete, your computer will be working on its own and you are correct in respect to tactics. Your fencing master makes you efficient at what you are to do, but, when competing, you must think that with what your opponent is trying to do. That is when the chips are down, you must have your stamina, a will to win and a computerized body. With these you can acquire experience, which, like skill, can only be acquired with practice. And even though you come a good fencer with skill and experience, you must still work out regularly with your fencing master, keeping your grooves sharp and your computer

SIX DISTINGUISHED FENCERS, SEVEN COACHES NAMED TO CITIZENS SAVINGS FENCING HALL OF FAME.

Six fencers and seven coaches were named to the Citizens Savings (formerly Helms) Fencing Hall of Fame as the result of 1977 elections.

All cited were presented with Citizens Savings Fencing Hall of Fame awards. Presentation ceremonies took place at University of Notre Dame on March 23, at the annual National Intercollegiate Fencing Championships dinner.

Nominations were made by a committee which was chaired by Michael DeCicco, Head Fencing Coach, University of Notre Dame. Members of the Citizens Savings Hall Board conducted the elections — Jim Cour, Bud Furillo, Chuck Garrity, Fred Hessler, Allan Malamud, Allin Slate, Jack Stevenson, Gil Stratton, W.R. (Bill) Shroeder, and Elwood A. Teague, chairman.

1977 CITIZENS SAVINGS HALL FENCING HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Competitors

Dean Cetrulo	North Caldwell, New Jersey
Dernell Every	Pleasantville, New York
Norman Lewis	Kew Gardens, New York
Dr. Tibor Nyilas	Bayside, New York
George V. Worth	Orangeburg, New York

Coaches

James M. Castello (Deceased)	Formerly Levittown, New York
Dr. Samuel D'Ambola	Newark, New Jersey
Istvan Danosi	Southfield, Michigan
Ray Miller	Wayne, New Jersey
Rene Pinchart (Deceased)	Formerly Encinitas, California and N.Y. Fencers Club
Julia Jones Pugliese	New York City, New York
Nicholas Toth	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Joseph Vince	North Hollywood, California

CITIZENS SAVINGS HALL FENCING HALL OF FAME.

FENCERS — MEN			COACHES
Norman C. Armitage	Ralph B. Faulkner	Leo G. Nunes	James M. Castello
Albert Axelrod	Maxwell Garret	W. Scott O'Connor	Dr. Samuel D'Ambola
George C. Calnan	Ralph M. Goldstein	J. Brooks B. Parker	Istvan Danosi
Hugo Castello	Robert Grasson	J. Sanford Saltus	Ray Miller
Julio M. Castello	Sherman Hall	Georgio L. Santelli	Charles R. Schmitter
Dean Cetrulo	Graeme M. Hammond	Charles R. Schmitter	George V. Worth
Lajos S. Csiszar	Alvar Hermanson	George V. Worth	Julia Jones Pugliese
Jose R. de Capriles	John R. Huffman		Stanley S. Steja
Miguel A. de Capriles	Tracy Jaeckel	FENCERS — WOMEN	Nicholas Toth
Irving De Koff	Joseph L. Levis	Harriet King	Joseph Vince
Andre Deladrier	Norman Lewis	Helena Mayer	
Clovis F.J. Deladrier	Edward F. Lucia	Maxine Mitchell	
Michael De Cicco	James Montague	Janice Lee Romary	
Dernell Every	James Murray	Maria Cerra Tishman	
	Dr. Tibor Nyilas	Marion Lloyd Vince	

PENN TRIUMPHS AT EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

SABRE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Michlos Benedek, New York University	6-2
2. Dave Williams, Rutgers	5-3*
3. Bob Pritchard, Yale	5-3*
4. Robert Richards, Navy	5-3*
5. Bruce Feldman, Yale	4-4
6. Chan Suk Park, Pennsylvania	3-5*
7. Jay Butan, Pennsylvania	3-5*
8. Mike Bierer, Harvard	3-5*
9. John Juzbasich, Pennsylvania	2-6

*Positions based on indicators
(Margin of touches for and against)

EPEE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. James Neale, Princeton	7-1
2. Randy Eggleton, Pennsylvania	6-2
3. Lars Wieselgren, New York University	5-3
4. Hans Wieselgren, New York University	4-4*
5. Tom Manobianco, Navy	4-4*
6. Chris Hanson, Pennsylvania	3-5*
7. Matthew Simmons, Harvard	3-5*
8. Robert Hupp, Cornell	3-5*
9. Chris Jennings, Harvard	1-7

*Positions based on indicators

The 80th Annual Intercollegiate Association Championships were held at Columbia University on March 1. There were thirteen teams entered in the Championships. For the second year the team from Pennsylvania, by David Michanik, won the Cham and took back with them the Alur Weapon Trophy. The Georges Award, presented by Cornell University alumni and undergraduate fencers in recognition of their former fencing coach awarded to Mark Smith, M.I.T., for outstanding sportsmanship in the competition "Little Iron Man," oldest of all intercollegiate trophies, was awarded to the Pennsylvania foil team.

FOIL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Mark Smith, M.I.T.
2. LaSelle Booker, Navy
3. Jack Tichacek, Pennsylvania
4. John Major, Harvard
5. R.H. Wolfson, Pennsylvania
6. Tom Veljacic, New York University
7. Len Battifarano, New York University
8. Richard Reimer, M.I.T.
9. Robert Hamilton, Army

FINAL THREE-WEAPON STANDING

Pos.	School	Epee	Foil	Sabre
1.	Pennsylvania	21	28	30
2.	New York University	25	27	23
3.	Princeton	26	17	22
4.	Navy	20	23	21
5.	Harvard	26	20	18
6.	Yale	11	18	26
7.	Cornell	21	15	16
8.	Columbia	20	12	19
9.	Army	6	23	21
10.	M.I.T.	10	27	8
11.	Rutgers	14	15	15
12.	City College of New York	20	4	12
13.	Dartmouth	14	5	3

FENCING IN EUROPE

by Bruce Jugan

The decision to go to Europe to fence was a joint effort between myself and my coach, Les Bleamaster. The decision was based on three major factors. First, my fencing had been steadily improving (I had earned a "B" classification in foil and had consistently been a finalist in local meets). Second, there was a two-month dormant period in our collegiate fencing schedule. This dormant period was coupled with a six-week semester break at my university. Third, Les felt that I had the ability to learn a great deal through observing other fencers without having a coach present to work out the new moves.

Considering these factors, we decided that the trip was in fact feasible and that my fencing would benefit from it.

After much practice, paper-work and a three-month German course I was ready to go (I thought!!!).

I arrived in Frankfurt, W. Germany on December 18. From there, I headed for the German National Fencing Center, to which I had written before my departure.

The center is in a small, old town called Tauberbischofsheim (TBB), which is located between Frankfurt and Würzburg. I was shocked when I saw the facilities! The fencing took place in a large, ultra-modern gymnasium, with 14 permanent strips and boxes and lights mounted on the walls and reel cords suspended from the ceiling. The center also has modern locker-room facilities, a sauna, and eating and sleeping facilities. The staff consists of six coaches, a full-time technician, trainer, cook, secretaries, and maintenance personnel, all of whom are exceptionally nice and speak almost no English among them.

The shock of such facilities was coupled with the high caliber of fencing at the club. I was made aware of this the first night I was there, when I attended a dinner meeting at which they showed "home movies" of the Montreal Olympics. I found out that the Olympic Gold and Silver medal winners in the individual epee trained there. Additionally, the entire silver medal epee team and four of the five members of the gold medal foil team trained in TBB.

I felt that I learned quite a bit through the bouts, lessons and observations. I realized one of the reasons for the Germans' success in the Olympics was the attitude with which they approach fencing. The coach I was taking lessons from spoke directly to this when he told me that fencing was work, not a sport.

The training is highly structured and organized in TBB. The lessons begin before noon with some of the international caliber fencers. It's an education just watching 21-year-old Olympic epee champion Alex Pusch take a lesson from Emil Beck, the German national epee coach.

At about one o'clock the center is swarming with around a hundred school children, ranging in age from about four years to eighteen. The really young children do various exercises to improve their coordination and muscular development. The mass of kids (ages 8-14) take lessons at various times during the day. When they're not fencing they do school work at the center.

After the children's lessons have been completed, they fence in pools with about ten fencers in each pool. The daily bout results are recorded by the coaches. This enables them to plot the progress of the fencers over a period of time. Additionally, an elaborate point system is assigned to the fencing, which rewards victories and placement in the pool (when there is a low placement in the pool, points are subtracted). These points are totaled after about three months. The children are then rewarded with fencing equipment in proportion to the amount of points they've accumulated. A consequence of this motivation is that the children take their bouts seriously.

This is also evident with the older fencers who fence in the evenings. The older fencers are motivated differently, however. For example, in a pool of ten fencers the persons finishing in the top five are allowed to shower and go home. However, the bottom five fencers must continue to fence another round among themselves.

The last weekend in January, I travelled to Paris with some of the club members to fence in the Martini foil competition. I had a disappointing showing, going out in the second round. However, I think part of that was the result of the variety of new things that I was being exposed to and my lack of experience in large competitions. The Tauberbischofsheim fencers did very well however,

with Harold Hein winning and Thomas Bach finishing third.

I spent the remainder of my stay in Europe (one week) in Paris, fencing at the Racing Club in the evenings. The people were very friendly to me (unlike many of the horror stories I had heard, pertaining to Parisians' dislike of Americans). At Le Racing, I had the impression that the French didn't approach fencing with the seriousness the Germans did.

Looking back on my trip I feel that I learned a great deal about fencing and made a lot of new friends. However, I did feel at times as though I was over my head with the caliber of fencing with which I was surrounded. This was very discouraging at times when I was continually losing and there was such an emphasis being placed on winning. I think a large part of my problem was that I *expected* to lose to the German fencers because they were from Germany and had some inherent key to victory. After I realized this, my fencing improved drastically. Additionally, I encountered nothing but kindness and help from the fencers and coaches I met on my trip.

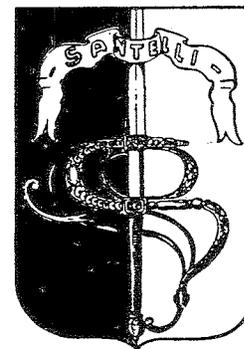
COMING NEXT ISSUE

A full report on the National Championship plus all our regular features

NEW ENGLAND SUMMER FENCING

Aaron Bell of the Tanner City Fencing Club cordially invites all fencers living in or passing through the New England area to participate in our outdoor weather permitting, at his home, 1500 Main Rd., in Marblehead, Mass., on Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 beginning on July 6th and continuing through September 7th.

There is an electric strip on the wall for those desiring to fence electrically. There is a pool for swimming after the fencing. There are no fees and a good time had by all.



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San Jose State Sweeps Women's Intercollegiates

49th NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE WOMEN'S FENCING ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT

March 30 - April 2, 1977

Madison College
Harrisonburg, Va.

San Jose State, losing only three bouts in two days of competition, won its third straight National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA) team championship at the NIWFA Tournament held March 30 - April 2 at Madison College in Harrisonburg, Va.

The Spartans won 109 of 112 bouts to easily surpass second place Cornell University with a bout record of 97-15 but with a lower indicator (touches given minus touches received) than Cornell.

San Jose State fencers also took the top three spots in the individual competition. Junior Vincent Hurley, the 1975 NIWFA champion, defeated all five opponents in the final round to regain her title. Teammate Stacey Johnson, the 1976 NIWFA individual champion, was runner-up and San Jose's Iza Farkas placed third, followed by Debbie Waples of Portland State, Ilona Maskal of William Paterson College, and Tami Greenshpon of Penn State.

Hurley, Johnson, Farkas and Waples were named to the 1977 NIWFA All-America First Team following the competition. Maskal and Greenshpon, along with Wendy Paschedag of Penn State and Becky Bilodeau of Cornell, were Second Team selections.

Paschedag finished seventh and Bilodeau ninth in the individual competition.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

- Vincent Hurley - San Jose State University
- Stacey Johnson - San Jose State University
- Iza Farkas - San Jose State University

- Debbie Waples - Portland State University
- Ilona Maskal - William Paterson College
- Tami Greenshpon - Penn State University
- Wendy Paschedag - Penn State University
- Margaret Szabunia - University of Pennsylvania
- Becky Bilodeau - Cornell University
- Judy Smith - Penn State University
- Anne Kayler - University of Pennsylvania
- Susan Kruse - Cornell University

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

	(Indicator)	Victories
1. San Jose State		109
2. Cornell University	97 (299)	
3. Penn State	97 (286)	
4. Portland State	91	
5. St. John's University	73	
6. University of Pennsylvania	71	
7. City College of New York	69	
8. Temple University	67	
9. Brandeis University	61	
10. Montclair State	60	
11. Hunter College	58	
12. William Paterson College	57 (6)	
13. Northwestern University	57 (2)	
14. Wayne State	55	
15. Fairleigh Dickinson - Teaneck	54 (6)	
16. University of North Carolina	54 (-11)	
17. Brooklyn College	53	
18. Johns Hopkins University	52	
19. University of Wisconsin - Madison	51	
20. New York University	43	
21. Hofstra	41	
22. Yale	39 (-109)	
23. SUNY - Oswego	39 (-122)	
24. North Carolina State	38	
25. University of Maine - Orono	32	
26. Madison College	28	
27. Princeton	27	
28. University of Virginia	25 (-196)	
29. Longwood College	25 (-227)	

1977 NIWFA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

First Team

Vincent Hurley - San Jose State University
Stacey Johnson - San Jose State University
Iza Farkas - San Jose State University
Debbie Waples - Portland State University

Second Team

Ilona Maskal - William Paterson College
Tami Greenshpon - Penn State University
Wendy Paschedag - Penn State University
Becky Bilodeau - Cornell University

Honorable Mention

Hope Konecny - San Jose State University
Margaret Azabunia - University of Pennsylvania

OLYMPIANS AWARD

Vincent Hurley - San Jose State University



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ATTENTION NIWFA ALUM

The NIWFA is seeking names and addresses of all alumnae. 1978 will be the 50th Anniversary Year. A celebration is planned. Please forward about alumnae to:

Mrs. Cathy Kopp
Executive Secretary
18 Pleasant Place
Kearney, New Jersey

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANSWERS? The U.S. Olympic Fencing Team

(From)

For every correct identification send a point.

Top Row: Darnell Every, Aust James Flynn, Jose de Capriles, E. Antz, Norman Armitage, Miguel Tibor Nyilas, Donald Thompson

Second Row: Rene Pinchart, Rulo, Norman Lewis, Andrew B. Giolito, Albert Wolff, Giorgio San

Third Row: Maria Cerra (Tishman), Lee York (Romary), Salvatore Giaren Dow, Helena Dow, Margaret

Bottom Row: George Worth, Iserman, Ralph Goldstein, Nathar